

No. VI.—A CENTIPEDE EATING A SNAKE.
(WITH A PHOTOGRAPH).

I believe it to be a fact that Centipedes in general are eminently raptorial in their habits, attacking anything that they can overpower. It never occurred to me, however, that a Centipede would be bold enough to attack a snake as appears to be the case in this instance. Considering the subject worthy of record, and possibly of interest to members, I had a photograph taken about half the real size, depicting the Centipede and snake in the position I saw them and in which I understand they were found.

The specimens were received by Dr. Pedley, who sent them home (unfortunately before they were identified) to his son for the Marlborough College Museum, and it is to him I am indebted for the following information.

They were found on the floor of a house at Kokine, a suburb of Rangoon, the snake alive and writhing in the clutches of the Centipede. They were killed and at once transferred to a jar of spirits, and the owner thinking the incident an unusual one sent the specimens to Dr. Pedley. An inspection of the photo will show that the skin and flesh for about two inches has been completely removed from the tail of the snake and presumably eaten by the Centipede, which was one of the common large brown unstriped variety often met with in this part of the province.

It would have been very interesting to know if the snake was uninjured before the Centipede attacked it, but in any case as the snake was alive when found, it might still have held its own against the Centipede. I shall be glad if this note and photo should prove to be of any interest to members of the Society.

W. P. OKEDEN,

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No. VII.—A MAN-EATING PANTHER.

The panther first began man-eating in this district in the rains of 1901: apparently he came from the Dangs, as his first kills were in the villages bordering on those native states. I think he probably took to man-eating on account of the 1900-1901 famine which was very bad indeed in the Dangs, many people dying out in the jungle (I have myself seen skulls of those who tried to get into British territory but died by the way); during the famine the deer and pig in the forests would naturally diminish on account of the Bhils and Konkanis being hard up, and this together with the circumstance of people moving about in the wildest and least frequented parts in search of edible fruits and roots probably led the panther on some extra hungry day to take to man for food. The first man he took was probably dying or asleep in the jungle. I did not hear of the man-eater till last February when my camp was at Mulher in the centre of the valley where he was killing: his beat in the Mulher Valley was about 7 miles long and 3 broad. I remained 10 days at Mulher trying my best by means of "holding the hills," beats and sitting up over kills to get the beast, but was unsuccessful and



Mintern Bros., Photo-Eng., London.

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